

Press-Herald

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As Lincoln Put It

(We believe that no tribute to President Abraham Lincoln on the date of his birth could be greater than a reflection on the wisdom which shone through his words as he wrote and spoke them.)

The world has never had a good definition of the word liberty, and the American people, just now, are much in want of one. — Address in Baltimore, April 18, 1864.

A nation may be said to consist of its territory, its people, and its laws. The territory is the only part which is of certain durability. — Second Annual Message to Congress, Dec. 1, 1862.

This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it. — First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861.

No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. — Farewell Address in Springfield, Ill., on Feb. 11, 1861.

It is difficult to make a man miserable while he feels he is worthy of himself and claims kindred to the great God who made him. — Address in Washington, Aug. 14, 1862.

If there ever could be a proper time for mere catch arguments, that time is not now. In times like the present, men should utter nothing for which they would not willingly be responsible through time and in eternity. — To Congress on Dec. 1, 1862.

Human nature will not change. In any future great national trial, compared with the men of this, we shall have as weak and as strong, as silly and as wise, as bad and as good. — In Washington, Nov. 10, 1864.

It has long been a grave question whether any government, not too strong for the liberties of its people, can be strong enough to maintain its existence in great emergencies. — Washington Nov. 10, 1864.

JAMES DORAIS

Property Tax Bite Gets Once Over in Sacramento

The details of the several proposals vary widely, but a consensus exists among Administration and Legislative leaders in Sacramento for some degree of relief for local property taxpayers, financed by an increase in the State sales tax.

Similar proposals bogged down in the past over lack of assurance that such relief would have any permanence about it, but this year carefully thought out plans have been developed to prevent local tax rates from simply bouncing back to former levels the year after they have been cut.

Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh's proposal would channel up to \$300 million in state funds into school districts with the highest property rates, requiring compensating reductions in local school district tax rates, and providing that after the roll-back, property taxes for school districts could be increased only with local

voter approval. A bill (AB 260) introduced by Assemblyman Robert Monagan and Carlos Bee, and sponsored by the California Teachers Association and other education groups, contains the novel approach of actually making the State a local property taxpayer.

Under AB 260, an annual fund of \$125 million would be applied directly toward relief of property taxpayers. The amount of relief would vary from school district to school district, based on the amount of local tax effort, and the tax rate reduction made possible by the State contribution would show on each taxpayer's tax bill.

This plan accepts a tax rate of \$3 per \$100 of assessed valuation to support schools at the combined elementary, high school and junior college levels as a major local effort. The minimum tax rate reduction would be 5c per \$100; the

higher the tax rate, the greater the reduction: a school rate of \$6, for example, would be entitled to a reduction of \$1.31 per \$100.

Under the formula proposed, taxpayers in the Los Angeles Unified School District would receive a property tax reduction of \$11 million.

Bakersfield taxpayers would receive a reduction of \$630,000; for Hayward the reduction would be \$1 million; for Oakland, \$2.1 million; Richmond, \$1.5 million; Sacramento, \$800,000; San Bernardino, \$1.8 million; Stockton, \$930,000.

Both the Unruh and the Monagan-Bee bills provide for total additional State support for schools, including the local property tax relief features, of approximately \$375 million. This is the amount that would be raised by a 1 cent increase in the State sales tax, without increasing the sales tax base by including presently exempt items.

Peace Feelers?

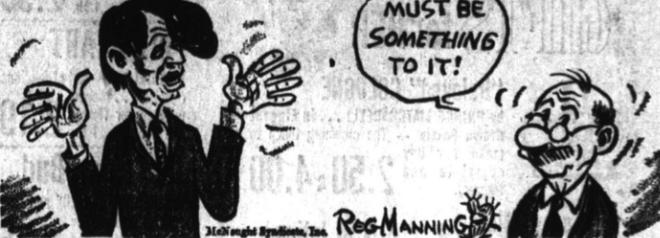
WASHINGTON DENIALS—



HANOI DENIALS—



BOBBY'S DENIALS—



AFFAIRS OF STATE

State Finding New Funds In Timber, Grazing Lands

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
Capital News Service

SACRAMENTO — Not all of the state's problems are centered around the 1967-68 budget, but most of them appear to center around the raising of tax money for California's government, and its counties, cities and special districts.

One of the problems being resolved by the state board of equalization concerns assessment of timber cutting and grazing rights on public lands. This is a problem of not much consequence to the more urban counties of the state, but vital to the

areas containing great areas of federally owned lands.

The board proposed a rule, which in effect was a directive to assessors to assess timber cutting and grazing rights on federal land. The rule said: "The possession of, claim to, or right to the possession of publicly owned land for the use of cutting and taking standing timber on the land is a taxable possessory interest."

"The possession of, claim

Sacramento
to, or right to the possession of publicly owned land for grazing livestock or raising forage is a taxable possessory interest."

Historically, counties have not taxed private individuals or firms contracting with the government to remove timber from public land. But as population grows, and the demand for more tax money increases along with the growth, this procedure was discovered as another method of adding gold to the county coffers, to the extent of about a half a million a year in the various counties affected.

At a hearing on the proposed rule, the board ran into a wave of opposition. One board aide said there hadn't been so many people at a board hearing since the old days when liquor cases were heard.

It was pointed out to the board the counties involved could lose more than six million a year if it ordered taxing of the timber on public lands, as the federal government pays that amount to the counties in lieu of taxes.

Senators, assemblymen, and citizens, as well as timber interests, were solid in opposition to the proposal to disturb the established procedure of keeping timber and grazing lands with

profitable produce from coming under the county assessments.

What the eventual disposition of the matter will be remains to be seen, but the fact remains the board ran into a buzz-saw in its attempt to equalize.

There is no argument that owners of private lands are taxed on certain possessory interest holdings, such as timber, forage, trees, vines and crops produced off their lands, with some exemptions to allow the growing material time to produce.

Thus, the individual contracting with the government to harvest a crop of timber located on land which might be adjacent to the private stand, is not concerned with taxable possessory interest. Government allocations in lieu of taxes on the land, which means that everybody contributes, make up the contractor's obligation to the county.

The proposal is an indication of the present trend in taxation, which is to levy on everything that possibly can be touched for taxes.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Religious Scholar Tells Of the Crucifixion Plot

Hugh J. Schonfield, an energetic, 65-year-old religious scholar (University of Glasgow) and recognized authority on both the New Testament and the Dead Sea Scrolls, was in town the other day to talk about his new book.

The only "divine" agent involved in the crucifixion of Christ, he said in discussing it, might have been the Roman soldier who chanced to throw a spear, thus killing the figure on the cross. That Jesus did die on the cross is probably the best thing that could have happened. For what if he had lived to an old and disillusioned age. The Roman soldier, in any event, inadvertently broke up the "Passover plot," and the uncorrupted ideas of Jesus remain with us today.

Schonfield was discussing his controversial, best-selling "The Passover Plot: New Light on the History of Jesus." In it he concedes that Jesus, if not more than a man, was a most exceptional, brilliant visionary, really a young genius.

The author presents documentation that Jesus planned his own arrest, cru-

HERB CAEN SAYS:

He Overworks the Phrase With Overworked Phrase

Overheard at a smart dinner party: "I think it's wrong and unpatriotic for an American to become an expatriate, unless he has a very good reason — like taxes" . . . Watchband calendars are corny . . . When a man says "I've never asked you for a favor before, have I?" you can bet 100-1 he's about to ask a favor . . . Same odds apply to people who begin "Actually, I can't stand dirty jokes, but . . ." Writers who apologize for a cliché with the aside, "to use an overworked phrase," are compounding a felony, to use an overworked phrase.

Mrs. Fred Bowerman, suffering mightily with laryngitis, wheezed to her four-year-old Fred Jr.: "I'm losing my voice." Fred, a child of the times: "Maybe you need new batteries" . . . And down in Redwood City, the Robert Landon's little dghtr, Debbie, distraught over the death of her pet cat, was told by her mother: "It's all right — your little kitty is up in Heaven with God." "Don't kid me," sobbed Debbie. "What does God want with a dead cat?"

Hang on, Scoopy: It's a whole new life for Rick Cluchey. Sentenced in '54 to life imprisonment at San Quentin, he was paroled as rehabilitated (he's an accomplished actor and his play, "The Cage," was pro-

duced by the Actor's Workshop) — and he'll marry Barbara Bladen, drama editor of the San Mateo Times. So far, only one setback: he was tested for the role of one of the killers in the film version of "In Cold Blood," but was turned down as "too old." He's 33 . . . Shirley Walker contributes the lead paragraph of an AP story out of Pasadena:

San Francisco

"Dangerous radioactive carbon 14 — the result, in part, of nuclear testing — is falling out of the sky even faster than scientists hoped." The hope that springs infernal?

Literary Footnote: Prof. Mark Schorer of Cal, the biographer of Sinclair Lewis and the No. 1 authority on the writings of Truman Capote, is now engaged in a major work on D. H. Lawrence. While going through the letters of Lawrence and his wife, Frieda, the other day, he found that in 1922, they were preparing to rent their house in Sicily "to a young American, Whitney Warren."

By coincidence, Schorer that same day was invited to a cocktail party honoring Harper's Cass Canfield — in the T'graphill home of Whitney Warren. Asked the Prof.: "Are you the same Whitney Warren who rented D. H. Lawrence's house in

1922?" "Right," replied Whitney. "I remember it well. Mrs. Lawrence showed me a big tree on the property and said 'Be nice to it. On warm nights, Mr. Lawrence and I take off all our clothes and climb around in it, letting the bark bruise our skins until we bleed.' Is this information of any interest to you?"

"Well," smiled Prof. Schorer, "Let us say that it does flesh out the story a little."

Caendin Camera: Magical sight in the foggy dusk: the Bay Bridge completely blotted out, its course traced only by the muffled lights of the cars crossing it — apparently in a void . . . At Ball's Sculptor Beniamino Bufano looking askance at the beautifully sculptured legs of Pia Lindstrom, emerging at length from her microminiskirt . . . Andre Kostelanetz stating at the "Topless Mother of 8!" sign outside El Cid, and shaking his head: "I've been away too long. Last time I was here, she only had a pair" . . . All at once in the St. Francis' English Grill: White-haired Fred Waring, shivering "The blood gets thin when you reach September — would you believe December?" A waitress saying to Jack Benny: "My, you're certainly holding your age well." Not having a writer handy, Jack just smiled!

ROYCE BRIER

LBJ Cites Costs, Calls For Freeze on Missiles

In the old days a mobile battery of artillery or a fortress with guns in fixed position were more or less self-contained.

Their purpose was to discourage or silence a line of infantry or cavalry, and if enemy guns got their range they might be knocked out. Defense of a mobile battery in battle was makeshift, usually a company of riflemen to repel an attempt at capture.

When longer range, as in World War I, made emplacement of guns possible miles behind the combat lines, the generals dispensed with defense for their batteries. In 50 years such a change has come over the situation of the offensive weapon, that it is in a new dimension. It compares with World War I artillery as that artillery

compares with an Egyptian leather sling. The comparison may be as valid financially, too.

We now have deployed across North America, and on undisclosed sites elsewhere, nests of long-range missiles. Most of these are placed in underground silos and fired in unison, with nuclear warheads, they could

probably destroy a large segment of mankind.

The bug is that the Russians have a smaller but effective long range system which, with luck, can knock out some of our system before it comes into full play. So we have started development of the Nike X, an antiballistic missile, designed

to intercept and destroy long range enemy missile.

This new system would presumably be stationed near our offensive system, and the President asked Congress for an appropriation of \$375 million to begin production of Nike X.

But in his State of the Union message the President said the Russians had deployed a "limited" antiballistic missile system around Moscow, and suggested the two nations reach an agreement not to deploy, to avoid a new arms race.

The President said the cost of such a system would run to \$30-40 billion.

For some weeks Secretary of State Rusk and Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin have been exploring this matter, and Rusk said with some caution that the Russians are displaying an interest in the "freeze." But some observers in the Soviet Union doubt Soviet interest.

Mr. Johnson said he was motivated not only by exorbitant cost involved but by some doubt in the missile expert hierarchy that antiballistics missiles would work. If we assume each nation spent \$30 billion and then the system didn't work, the Russians and Americans would be out \$60 billion. But not many would be around to lament the failure. That's the way arms races will work in the future.

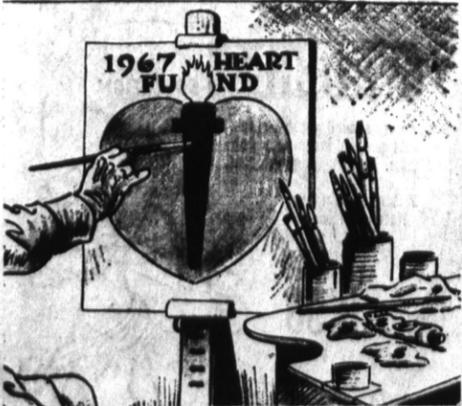
Quote

Many of us are tired of pseudo-intellectualism and their know-it-all disdain for common sense and proven principles of sound public administration. — Mayor Sam Yorty.

Our system doesn't call for everyone to have ratified all of our laws. It does call for everyone to respect our laws. — Attorney General Thomas Lynch.

I'm not one to look a gift horse in the mouth. — Governor Reagan of a proposal to privately fund a new governor's mansion.

Don't quit now, Sandy, you've got a go-hitter going. — Phil Harris after Koufax had whiffed two swings in a golf tournament.



Give---So More Will Live!

Morning Report:

The nice thing about living in a democracy is that the government confides to us. And the only thing that makes the information at all bearable is that we can't understand what the government is saying. Like the President's new budget.

He says it adds up to \$135,000,000,000 — if I have the right number of zeros there. I'm sure the President has the correct figure because he has hundreds of experts to add for him and a battery of electronic brains to check up on them. As for the rest of us, we take the figure on faith.

None of us citizens has the time even to count up to \$135,000,000,000 — not if we counted by tens.

Abe Mellinkoff